

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher Moreno on Monday, June 15, 2009.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **CANCEL** claims 2, 6, 10, 17-29, 31, 42-61 without prejudice or disclaimer.
Please **AMEND** claims 1, 9, 30, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 9, 30 as follow:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for tracking a plurality of containers, wherein the apparatus is coupled to a status tracking structure that provides event information regarding at least a portion of the plurality of containers, the apparatus comprising:

a centralized tracking manager comprising a processor;

an event table for storing the event information;

a rule execution component, constituting at least a portion of the centralized tracking manager and coupled to the event table, that processes the event information in accordance with at least one rule, wherein the at least one rule tests for non-optimal

use of at least one container of the plurality of containers based on the event information; [and]

a configuration engine component, also constituting at least a portion of the centralized tracking manager and coupled to the rule execution component, that causes the rule execution component, without regard to occurrence of the event information and according to at least one user-specified execution frequency, to process the event information in accordance with at least a portion of the at least one rule wherein the at least one rule comprises at least two rules, and wherein the configuration engine component associates at least two execution frequencies with the at least two rules such that a portion of the at least two rules is executed with a frequency different from other rules of the at least two rules; and

an event engine component, also constituting at least a portion of the centralized tracking manager and coupled to the status tracking structure and the event table, that receives the event information, stores the event information in the event table and, in response to the receipt of the event information, causes the rule execution component to process the event information in accordance with at least a portion of the at least one rule.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for tracking a plurality of containers, wherein the computer architecture is coupled to a status tracking structure that provides event information regarding at least a portion of the plurality of containers, the apparatus comprising:

a centralized tracking manager comprising a processor;

an event table for storing the event information;

a rule storage component;

a rule execution component, constituting at least a portion of the centralized tracking manager and coupled to the event table and the rule storage component, that processes the event information in accordance with at least one rule stored in the rule storage component, wherein the at least one rule tests for non-optimal use of at least one container of the plurality of containers based on the event information and wherein the rule storage component permits modification of any of the at least one rule independent of the rule execution component; [and]

a configuration engine component, also constituting at least a portion of the centralized tracking manager and coupled to the rule execution component, that causes the rule execution component to process the event information in accordance with at least one periodic rule of the at least one rule without regard to occurrence of the event information and according to at least one user-specified execution frequency wherein the at least one periodic rule comprises at least two periodic rules, and wherein the configuration engine component associates at least two execution frequencies with the at least two periodic rules such that a portion of the at least two periodic rules is executed with a frequency different from other rules of the at least two periodic rules;
and

an event engine component, also constituting at least a portion of the centralized tracking manager and coupled to the status tracking structure and the event table, that

receives the event information, stores the event information in the event table and, in response, causes the rule execution component to process the event information in accordance with at least one of the at least one rule.

30. (Currently Amended) A method in a system for tracking a plurality of containers in a system comprising a tracking manager coupled to a status tracking structure that provides event information, regarding at least a portion of the plurality of containers, the tracking manager comprising a processor and the ~~a method in the tracking manager~~ comprising:

receiving, by the tracking manager, the event information; and

storing the event information in an event table; and

processing, by the tracking manager, the event information in the event table in accordance with rules of at least one rule that is are-evaluated regardless of occurrence of the event information and according to at least one user-specified execution frequency, wherein the at least one rule tests for non-optimal use of at least one container of the plurality of containers based on the event information, wherein processing of the event information further comprises processing the event information in accordance with at least a portion of the at least one rule in response to receipt of the event information

and wherein the at least one rule comprises at least two periodic rules and the at least one user-specified execution frequency comprises at least two periodic frequencies associated with the at least two periodic rules such that a portion of the at

least two periodic rules is executed with a frequency different from other rules of the at least two periodic rules.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BARBARA N. BURGESS whose telephone number is (571)272-3996. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00am-4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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